(d) what measures have been adopted by Government to bring these families above the poverty line ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission Estimate State-wise number of persons below poverty line on the basis of quinquennial survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The poverty estimates for backward classes are not available. The Statewise poverty estimates for SCs and STs are available only for the years 1977-78 and 1983-84. As such, the estimates of poverty for SCs and STs as on 30th June, 1993 are not available.

(d) A number of programmes are being implemented in order to improve the quality of life of the poor households. These include programmes for raising incomes and generating employment, such as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). Benefits to SC/ST are specifically earmarked in these programmes. In addition, Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes (SCP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) are being implemented which aim at providing a package of benefits for SC & ST families so as to enable them to meet their specific needs, raise their income and levels of living.

384. *[Transferred to 14th December,* 1993]

Escalation In the Cost of on going PSU Projects

385. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of ongoing Public Sector Undertaking pro jects have risen to Rs. 200,000 crore against the original estimate of appx. Rs. 68 crore;

(b) if so, what are the main sectors of the public sector projects the cost of which have shown phenominal rise;

(c) what are the major causes of cost escalation;

(d) whether according to the cost analysis the cost of the mega and major projects having more than 80 per cent public sector investment is anticipated to rise by the close of the year 1993 ; and

(e) if so, the manner in which Government propose to move in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir, However, as on 1-11-1993, the original cost of 354 projects being monitored by the Departmental of Programme Implementation has risen from Rs. 76,302 crores to Rs. 1,27,000 crores i.e., by about 66.4 percent.

(b) The cost increase of more than 50% over the original cost is in the sector of Atomic Energy, Civil Aviation, Coal, Fertiliser, Information and Broadcasting, Steel & Iron Ore, Power, Heavy Industry and Railways.

(c) The main causes of the cost escalation in projects interalia include; approval of cost at fixed prices without taking into consideration the general escalation in prices, changes in statutory taxes and duties, devaluation of the Rupee against foreign currencies, change in scope of project, etc.

(d) The cost analysis of mega and major projects shows that their cost at Rs. 1,22.069 crores as on 1-11-193 may register an overall additional increase in the range of 1% by the close of 1993.

(e) The Government proposes to finance the gap through increased budgetary support, internal resources and extra-budgetary resources.

386. *[Transferred to 14th December,* 1993]